

Appl. No. 09/886,521
Amdt. dated March 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 14, and 15 are amended; claims 17-27 are canceled without prejudice; and claims 28-33 are added. Claims 1-16 and 28-33 are now pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 14-16 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14 and 15 have been so rewritten, and claim 16 depends from claim 15. Claims 14-16 should therefore be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(c) as anticipated by US Patent No. 6,152,744 to Maeda et al. ("Maeda"), and claim 1 was further rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,344,338 to Colleran et al. ("Colleran"). In addition, claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Maeda and US Patent No. 6,233,818 to Finn et al. ("Finn"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 1 now includes "a contactor comprising a plurality of contacts disposed to contact an electronic device to be tested" and "an interconnection means for providing a plurality of flexible, spring-like electrical connections between the cables and the contacts of the interface substrate." Both Maeda and Colleran fail to teach or suggest "an interconnection means for providing a plurality of flexible, spring-like electrical connections between the cables and the contacts of the interface substrate." That is, nothing in Maeda provides a plurality of flexible, spring-like electrical connections between Maeda's coaxial cables 29 (which the PTO equated with the cables of claim 1) and any contacts that contact an electronic device to be tested. Likewise, nothing in Colleran provides a plurality of flexible, spring-like electrical connections between Colleran's conductor 38/40 (which the PTO equated with the cables of claim 1) and any contacts that contact an electronic device to be tested. Finn fails to make up for these deficiencies in Maeda and Colleran. Claim 1 is therefore patentable over Maeda, Colleran, and Finn, whether taken individually or in combination.

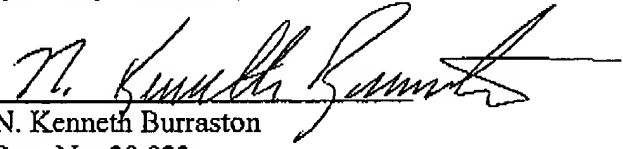
Claims 2-16 and 28-32 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also patentable over Maeda, Colleran, and Finn. In addition, claims 2-16 and 28-32 recite additional features that are not taught or suggested by Maeda, Colleran, or Finn.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
N. Kenneth Burraston
Reg. No. 39,923

Kirton & McConkie
1800 Eagle Gate Tower
60 East South Temple
P.O. Box 45120
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-1004
Telephone: (801) 323-5934
Fax: (801) 321-4893